

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE June 27, 2006	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Greg Thomas, M.D., M.P.H. 781-5519	
(4) SUBJECT Request to 1) approve renewal contract (Clerk's file) with Robert J. Latta, M.D. to continue serving as Deputy Health Officer and County Jail physician for five years and 2) authorize the Health Agency Director or his/her designee to effect termination of the contract, if necessary, without action of the Board of Supervisors.			
(5) SUMMARY OF REQUEST Dr. Latta has been serving under contract in FY 05/06 as both a physician in the County Jail dispensary and also as back-up Deputy to the County Health Officer in the event of the Health Officer's absence or in the case of a disaster. Dr. Latta's present contract expires on June 30, 2006; and the Public Health Department is requesting to renew his contract for five years effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011. In addition, the Department requests that the Health Agency Director of his/her designee be authorized to terminate the contract if necessary without action of the Board of Supervisors.			
(6) RECOMMENDED ACTION Approve and sign renewal contract (Clerk's file) with Robert J. Latta, M.D.			
(7) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund	(8) CURRENT YEAR COST N/A	(9) ANNUAL COST \$49,957 in 2006/07	(10) BUDGETED? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
(11) OTHER AGENCY/ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT (LIST): This physician works part-time at the County Jail and treats inmates under custody of the Sheriff's Department staff. When providing Health Officer disaster-related duties, this physician interacts with multiple County departments. County Personnel and County Counsel have approved this contract. County Administration has recommended its funding in FY 06/07.			
(12) WILL REQUEST REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, How Many? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Term _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contract _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Help _____			
(13) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) <input type="checkbox"/> 1st, <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd, <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd, <input type="checkbox"/> 4th, <input type="checkbox"/> 5th, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All		(14) LOCATION MAP <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	(15) Maddy Act Appointments Signed-off by Clerk of the Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
(16) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)		(17) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions (Orig + 4 copies) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(18) NEED EXTRA EXECUTED COPIES? <input type="checkbox"/> Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		(19) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(20) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(21) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	(22) Agenda Item History <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date 4/10/2001 and 7/22/2003
(23) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <i>OK Dean Brubaker</i> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <i>B9 621-00</i> </div>			



County of San Luis Obispo • Public Health Department

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Gregory W. Thomas, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer
Public Health Administrator

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Gregory W. Thomas, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer / Public Health Administrator

Date: June 27, 2006

Subject: Request to 1) approve renewal contract (Clerk's file) with Robert J. Latta, M.D. to continue serving as Deputy Health Officer and County Jail physician for five years and 2) authorize the Health Agency Director or his/her designee to effect termination of the contract, if necessary, without action of the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation

It is recommended that your Board approve and sign the renewal contract (Clerk's file) with Robert J. Latta, M.D.

Discussion

Dr. Robert Latta has been working as a physician in the County Jail since April 2001, with his prior contracts having been approved by your Board on both April 10, 2001 and July 22, 2003. His current contract expires on June 30, 2006, and the Public Health Department wishes to renew his contract for five (5) years effective July 1, 2006. While most of Dr. Latta's services over the last five (5) years have been to diagnose and treat the medical conditions of Jail inmates under the custody of Sheriff's Department staff, in December 2005 he assumed the additional role of the Deputy Health Officer (DHO).

Dr. Latta will work up to an average of six (6) hours per week in FY 06/07 treating Jail inmates under the custody of the Sheriff's Department staff, and acting as lead physician over other Jail physicians, performing medical review of inmates' medical care, and conducting research for Jail accreditation. Services are provided to an average daily inmate population that has been continually increasing. It averaged 444/day in FY 03/04, 486/day in FY 04/05, and 533/day in FY 05/06, with it being 581/day in April 2006. The average daily inmate population is likely to continue rising into FY 06/07. Jail clinics are presently being held five (5) days per week and are planned to increase to six (6) days per week in FY 06/07, if approved by your Board in the upcoming budget hearings. Funding is included in the FY 06/07 proposed budget.

As lead Jail physician, Dr. Latta works with the other jail physicians to determine the most appropriate medical care for inmates at the least possible cost. As of April 30, 2006 there have been 249 hospital inpatient days for inmates of which both Dr. Latta and the Supervising Correctional Nurse have had oversight and performed utilization review to both insure necessary medical care and to discharge inpatients as soon as possible to minimize cost. Hospital inpatient days averaged 10/month in FY 03/04, 11/month in FY 04/05, and 25/month in FY 05/06 thus far. Also, as of April 30 there have been 17,304 sick call visits held in the Jail dispensary under the auspices of Dr. Latta. Sick call visits averaged 1,757/month in FY 03/04, 1,884/month in

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FY 04/05, and 1,730 visits/month in FY 05/06 thus far. Dr. Latta also serves in his DHO role during the absence of the Health Officer (HO), to cover disaster/back-up call for up to 90 days/year. In this function he assures continuity of HO duties when the HO is out-of-County for necessary meetings, on vacation, or on sick leave. The DHO duties are extensive, and some of the duties include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) communicable disease and tuberculosis control program consultation and oversight, 2) consultation to the utilization review and administrative staff of the Health Systems office, 3) assisting with planning, coordinating and supervising the activities of the Department including, but not limited to, bio-terrorism and disaster preparedness, 4) consultation on quality assurance/quality improvement activities, 5) acting as a consultant to all medical personnel, and 6) acting under the authority of the HO as delineated in law to protect the public's health.

Other Agency Involvement / Impact

This contract has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel and County Personnel. County Administration has recommended this contract position for funding in the FY 06/07 proposed budget.

Financial Considerations

Funds for this contract are included in the FY 06/07 proposed budget at \$49,957; \$27,000 for Dr. Latta's services as DHO; and \$22,957 for his services primarily treating Jail inmates, with both functions being paid at the hourly rate of \$70. The actual hours worked will depend on the availability of Dr. Latta in relation to the other contracted jail physicians to staff the jail medical clinic for 3 hours/day Monday to Saturday. The chart below compares the adopted budget in FY 05/06 to the recommended budget in FY 06/07 for Dr. Latta's services:

	adopted FY 05/06	recommended FY 06/07
Jail medical services of Dr. Latta *	\$11,388	\$22,957
Deputy Health Officer	\$22,094	\$27,000
Total expense	\$33,482	\$49,957
* 3 hours/week in FY 05/06 and 6 hours/week in FY 06/07		

Results

Under State law counties must provide necessary medical care to Jail inmates. Dr. Latta will continue in his lead Jail physician capacity. Not only will the health of inmates be maintained, and in many cases improved, the public's health will be protected when inmates' communicable diseases are treated prior to the inmates' release.

With the risk of the public's health at stake, it is important to the community that a DHO be available to provide back-up HO support at all times. Without a DHO and HO, there is a risk of inappropriate medical decisions being made in their absence that could have adverse impacts on the entire community's health. The County also would be out of compliance with State law if no HO or DHO were available to protect the public's health. This contract promotes the overall Department mission of "improving and maintaining community health" and the County's goal of "striving to create a healthy community".

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Personnel Department SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Richard D. Greek, Personnel Director

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To: Jeff Hamm
Health Agency Director

From: Richard Greek
Personnel Director

Date: May 22, 2006

Subject: Contract Physician, Dr. Robert Latta

The Personnel Department recommends the approval of the contract of Robert J. Lata M.D. to provide physician services to the County Jail and act as back-up Deputy to the County Health Officer as required, for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011.

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